



Updated 6/28/21

CCQS Frequently Asked Questions for Centers

How do I apply for a certified quality rating in the Child Care Quality System (CCQS)? Where is the application?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Child Care stopped accepting new applications to participate in CCQS as of June 1, 2020. Center-based programs who had submitted a new or late recertification application prior to June 1, 2020 will be eligible to re-apply for a certified quality rating between June 1, 2021, and July 7, 2021. These eligible programs will be notified prior to June 1, 2021 on how to submit an application.

My program already has a certified quality rating. Do I need to apply for recertification?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all certified quality ratings were extended until June 30, 2021. In June 2021, the Office of Child Care will accept recertification applications for all child care programs that had a current certified quality rating on May 1, 2020. Programs with a current certified quality rating that fail to submit a recertification application by July 7, 2021 will revert to a default Foundation of Quality rating. Programs that submit a recertification application by July 7, 2021 will keep their current certified quality rating until a new rating is awarded.

My program does not have a certified quality rating and did not apply before the pandemic. When will I be able to apply for a certified quality rating?

The Office of Child Care is implementing policies and procedures that will bridge the gap that was created by the pandemic. Programs that had a current certified quality rating or had a pending application in CCQS prior to June 2020 will be prioritized for a re-certification or rating opportunity before the system opens to other programs. Programs will be notified when the application is open to all interested programs.

When will a new timeline be available to determine a program's documentation period?

Programs applying for recertification between June 1, 2021, and July 7, 2021, will receive an estimated timeline for submitting required documentation in July 2021. At that time, the Office of Child Care will also notify programs with existing High Quality or High Quality Plus ratings that requested observations of their randomly selected observation month. Programs with a Building Quality or certified Foundation of Quality, or programs with pending applications as of June 1, 2020, that request an observation will be informed of an approximate window of time when their observations will take place.

Are observations required for a certified quality rating?

Programs that are eligible to apply between June 1, 2021, and July 7, 2021, will have the option to receive a certified quality rating without an observation for one certified quality rating period only. Programs that select this option will be scored based on a temporary CCQS framework. In place of observations, the program must meet training requirements for the director and/or staff that is focused on best practices related to the CCQS observation tools. If a program chooses not to have observations, the only certified quality ratings available are Foundation of Quality and Building Quality. This option is only available to those centers eligible to apply during the June 1-July 7 2021 application period.

My program is not eligible to apply in June 2021, will I have the option to choose to be scored on the temporary framework when I become eligible?

No. The temporary CCQS framework was created to give programs a choice to allow them to recover from the gap that was created by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the application opens to all programs, observations will be required.

My program does not have a current certified quality rating and did not submit an application prior to June 1, 2020, but prepared to apply for a rating by making several investments - including obtaining a TOP Star certification, increasing participation of staff in Career Ladder-approved courses and implementing family engagement practices. Will we get credit for any of these things?

These important investments that you have made in your program positively impact children in your care and will benefit your program when you apply for a certified quality rating once the application re-opens to all programs. These investments, and several other investments that your program can make during this time, will contribute to your program's rating. Some investments, such as obtaining the TOP Star certification and accreditations, are valid for multiple years. Child care programs are encouraged to contact these certification agencies to determine when the certifications expire. Additionally, several professional development accomplishments, including Career Ladder levels awarded and college credit hours completed, will count for a future rating.

My program is currently receiving an Enhanced Subsidy Grant. Will my program continue to receive the Enhanced Subsidy Grant with my extended certified quality rating?

Yes. Child care programs that achieved a High Quality or High Quality Plus certified quality rating and will be submitting an application between June 1, 2021, and July 7, 2021, will continue to receive the Enhanced Subsidy Grant at the originally calculated amount until they are recertified. If a program is rated High Quality or High Quality Plus at that time, ESG payments will be recalculated and continue. If a program with a current High Quality or High

Quality Plus rating elects to be scored using the temporary framework, ESG payments will end when the program's new Foundation of Quality or Building Quality rating is awarded on October 1, 2021. If a program does not apply during the recertification application window at all, the Enhanced Subsidy Grant will end on June 30, 2021.

What are the opportunities available to support the professional development of the staff in my child care program?

During this period of time, professional development courses offered through Care About Childcare are being delivered in a live, virtual format to ensure health, safety and accessibility for participants. In addition, the courses are currently available at a reduced rate of just \$5 per course. The course calendar and course registration may be found at <https://cac.utah.gov>.

What is the Interim Professional Development Cost Sharing program?

While programs were not receiving new ratings in the Child Care Quality System, the Office of Child Care continued to share professional development costs with eligible programs that met annual Career Ladder approved training hour goals through the Interim Professional Development Cost Sharing Program. For Licensed Centers that are not eligible to apply for new ratings in the Child Care Quality System, the Office of Child Care will continue to share professional development costs that meet annual Career Ladder-approved training hour goals through the Extended Interim Professional Development Cost Sharing Program.

I would like to improve the quality of my child care program. Is the Office of Child Care providing any support to programs during this time that want to work toward achieving a higher rating in CCQS?

The Office of Child Care has developed some exciting programs to support centers with a focus on activities that will help them maintain or increase the quality of care that they provide. These programs include "The ERS Best Practices Workshop Series," and the "Peer Learning Communities Project." Both of these programs were launched by the Office of Child Care in October 2020. You may also contact the CCQS Specialist at your local Care About Childcare agency for technical assistance in setting goals related to CCQS.